

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 235

By Gillespie

A RESOLUTION to commemorate "International HPV Awareness Day" on March 4, 2023.

WHEREAS, human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus in everyone, men and women, that leads to six types of cancer; nationally, nearly everyone gets the virus at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, while nationally the two most prevalent HPV-associated cancers are oropharyngeal and cervical cancers, the incidence rates of HPV cancers overall for oropharyngeal and cervical cancers are higher in Tennessee compared to the U.S. averages; and

WHEREAS, a safe, highly effective, and long-lasting vaccination against HPV has been recommended in the U.S. since 2006, protects against 90 percent of HPV cancers, and is widely available; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends HPV vaccination for all people ages nine to twenty-six years of age and for some people ages twenty-seven to forty-five who were not vaccinated as children; and

WHEREAS, on-time HPV vaccination is routinely recommended at ages nine to twelve years for optimal protection against HPV cancers as adults; and

WHEREAS, while Tennessee has steadily increased the percentage of citizens having received routinely recommended HPV vaccination across the State, HPV vaccination coverage statewide continues to lag; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's HPV Cancer Prevention Program is focused on galvanizing existing, successful HPV cancer prevention efforts and introducing new

ones in support of increasing HPV vaccination and reducing HPV cancer cases and deaths across Memphis, the State of Tennessee, and nationally; and

WHEREAS, ImmunizeTN, the State of Tennessee immunization coalition, Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, HPV Cancer Free Tennessee, the State of Tennessee HPV cancer prevention workgroup, and the Memphis and Shelby County HPV Cancer Prevention Roundtable also focus on HPV cancer prevention in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the International HPV Awareness Campaign is a key initiative of the International Papillomavirus Society, which aims to increase public awareness of the virus as part of its mission to improve understanding of HPV and the importance of prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of papillomavirus-related diseases, and its partners, including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as they commemorate March 4, 2023, as "International HPV Awareness Day" in Tennessee in their efforts to educate Tennesseans about HPV vaccinations and other HPV cancer prevention measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation